

COMMUNICATED.

Hon. R. M. T. Hunter—The Next Presidency.

In the general hotchpotch of political parties, it is refreshing and encouraging to see a gentleman like SENATOR HUNTER, occupying the front rank of our ablest statesmen, who has never "stooped to conquer," nor pandered to popular schemes and prejudices to gain popularity. He is one who has always pursued that course through life, through choice and principle, best calculated to command popularity, instead of endeavoring to win it, and who has ever regarded that popularity as most enduring that has been attained by a strict and conscientious discharge of duty, instead of that obtained by devious courses, "of being all things to all men." One who has ever regarded the old and now almost obsolete adage of "vox populi, vox dei," as among the absurdities of an early age. One who with all the adventitious advantages of wealth, family and aristocratic pretension, has chosen to pursue the even tenor of his way in a plain, unostentatious, democratic simplicity, and without seeking honors and emoluments, has enjoyed almost all except the highest honors of the Republic, and these, he is destined inevitably to adorn: One who with wealth sufficient to establish a half dozen presses—that great lever and manufacturer of public opinion and public men, yet has never owned a dime's interest in any political paper, to broadcast and misrepresent, or manufacture spurious capital and strength. He has gradually risen by the power and charm of an invincible and undivided intellect, and perfectly balanced mind, to the proud pre-eminence and distinction he now enjoys—an elevation far above and beyond any of his contemporaries who started with him in his brilliant career only a few years since.

We first find Mr. Hunter, soon after graduating at College, with the first honors, and a classic and finished education, a practicing lawyer, and in public life in the Legislature of Virginia, enjoying the distinguished position of "the star of the Kappahannock"—a star destined to shine most brightly and with national lustre. We again, soon find him, not only in the National Legislature, but he had hardly attained the legal age, entered it, but the presiding officer, and youthful vigor elevated to the chair, and the only drawback of his own great abilities, and indifference to high position, which if he did not decline, he certainly never sought. We soon find him again transferred from the House of Representatives, "with all his blushing honors fresh upon him" to the United States Senate, and Chairman of one of the most important Committees of that august body, and wielding an influence and enjoying a popularity, second to no statesman who has ever been a member thereof.

We now find him enjoying the proud distinction of being not only the first man in the Old Dominion, by large odds, but the first in the South, first in the Union, and in the Senate, among a constellation of statesmen, and the most prominent in the Union for the nomination of the Charleston Convention for the next Presidency, enjoying, as he does, the confidence of all men and all sections of our vast Confederacy, and without an enemy on earth. His splendid administrative talents, and superior ability, are unquestionable, and in his long career of statesmanship and usefulness, such has been the purity of his life, that the voice of slander has never reached him to taint his fair fame, or attribute the least suspicion of sin, treachery, or consumable motive to him. Hence, his elevation to the Presidency, with all his qualifications and the latter well earned popularity, would be one of the most enviable and promising, so natural to one who has never been disappointed in any aspiration, or defeated for any position his friends wished him to attain, and who has always been propelled forward in his political career by an invincible popular current impossible to resist.

As the North has had the last three Presidents, the South or the West is now certainly entitled to one, and the principal competitors in the Charleston Convention must be Senator Hunter, and the youthful and gifted Vice President, Breckinridge; and the latter, with his brilliant talents, his high ability, and his noble and pure life, his claims will, in all probability, be deferred to those of his senior competitor, HUDSON.

1859. ALMANAC. 1859.

FIRST MONDAY	SUN SETS	MOON'S PHASES.
JANUARY.	4 11 41	4 11 41
4 Tuesday	7 19 44	4 11 41
5 Wednesday	7 18 44	4 11 41
6 Thursday	7 17 44	4 11 41
7 Friday	7 16 44	4 11 41
8 Saturday	7 15 44	4 11 41
9 Sunday	7 14 44	4 11 41
10 Monday	7 13 44	4 11 41

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA—JANUARY 3.

MEMORANDA.

Schrs. Fleetwood, Burr, for this port, and D. W. Vaughn, Richmond, for Georgetown, c'd at New York.

Schrs. Fleetwood, Burr, for Georgetown, c'd at Savannah, 31st ult.

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The Home Squadron.

The New Flag Officer.—The New York Herald gives the following sketch of Capt. McClure's life and services.

Captain William J. McClure, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed commander of the Home Squadron, in place of Commodore McIntosh, who, on account of ill health, has been recalled, at his own request.

Captain McClure has been in the service since 1812, this being his forty-sixth year. He participated in the renowned engagement between the Wasp and the Frolic, as a lieutenant on board the Wasp, and contributed much by his bravery to the memorable victory of our flag on that occasion. His present commission is dated Oct. 13, 1851. He has, therefore, been a captain seven years. During this he has performed about four years of sea service. Since he entered the navy he has performed twenty years of sea service, and six years of the shore and other duties. He was first at sea in February, 1836, on the United States steamer Powhatan. His difficulty with Governor Bowline, in which he strenuously defended the rights of the seamen of the American ships, is somewhat notorious. In 1857 he was awaiting orders, and the last year has been on special duty, superintending the construction of Mr. Stevens' wonderful steam launch at Hoboken. In 1855 he ranked No. 60 on the naval list, and previous to the late restoration ranked No. 24. He now ranks No. 26, as two of the restored commanders rank above him.

He was actively engaged throughout the Mexican war, and distinguished himself in the memorable achievements of our navy at that period. On the Japan Expedition of Commodore Perry he had command of the Saranac. His name was prominently mentioned at the time of the appointment of Com. McClure for the post to which he has now been appointed, and he was supposed to have a fair chance for the honor at that time. Among those who know him, he is esteemed for his many qualities, his generosity and benevolence, and all the virtues that become a noble sailor.

Alleged Case of Swindling.

A letter from Rockingham, Va., to the Richmond Dispatch, announces the arrest of a member of the Senate of Virginia, charged with swindling the citizens and banks of Staunton, out of several thousand dollars. He has given a mortgage of his property, valued at \$70,000, to meet his indebtedness. The letter adds:—"The affair has caused the greatest excitement throughout the county. He has represented the district composed of Rockingham and Loudoun counties, for the last eight or ten years. We hear some talk that there will be other developments made, but will say nothing of them till out. His wife accompanied him to prison, and remained there with him. She also accompanied him to Staunton, and seems determined to stand by him to the last."

[The Richmond papers of last evening contain nothing further in relation to the above—the arrest of Mr. Geo. E. Denade. It is said that the money given in which he is involved, were brought on by dealing too largely in cattle, he not being able to pay for all he bought.]

Mt. Vernon Fund.

Mrs. M. A. Conner, who was lately appointed Vice Regent, for Delaware, of the Mount Vernon Association, has been so successful in obtaining contributions that it is predicted by those who believe in her, that a larger donation than any other State, taking into consideration her population and wealth, Mrs. Hannah Blake Farnsworth, wife of Chancellor Farnsworth, and Vice-Regent for Michigan, is just entering upon her duties, and makes a most favorable report of the feeling in that State towards the Mount Vernon enterprise.

The afternoon performance at Laura Keen's New York Theatre, on Wednesday last, realized the sum of \$500 to the Mount Vernon fund.

Ship Building in 1859.

The New York Courier and Enquirer, gives the following tables:

Description of vessels built in 1858:	
Ships and Barks	122
Brigs	45
Schooners	122
Steamers	100
Stoekers	226
Total number built	1,223

The city marriage license clerk of Washington, D. C., issued during the year just past, 949 "hymeneal permits." The smallest number in any given month was issued in March, 43; and the greatest number in October, 112.

DIED.

In Alexandria, on Friday night, the 31st ult., SOPHIA, wife of Albert Egan.

In Georgetown, (D. C.) on Friday, the 31st ult., after a long and painful illness, VINCENT J. TAYLOR, in the 47th year of his age. He was esteemed and beloved by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

In Baltimore, on the 29th of December, ROSA TERESA, infant daughter of John and Lavina Gallagher.

On the 31st of December, at her residence in Prince William County, Virginia, Mrs. AMINTA ELIZABETH MOXLEY, in the 32nd year of her age.

FRESH SUPPLY.—We are now receiving from New York, and have in store the following GOODS, to which we invite the attention of the trade.

15 bbls. New Crop New Orleans Sugars
50 bbls. Crushed and Refined do
10 bbls. Muscovado Molasses
15 bbls. prime New Crop New Orleans do
10 bbls. Golden Syrup
20 bbls. Rice Coffee
50 bbls. Java, Maricao, and Cape Coffee
75 boxes Adamantine Candles
50 do Mould do
65 half chests Gunpowder and Black Tea
100 bbls. Sugar
50 bbls. Vinegar
5 do Fresh Rice
100 bbls. Soda Ash
100 bbls. Soda Ash
75 bbls. Cedar Tar

J. H. McVEIGH & SON, Prince Street Wharf.

MOUNT VERNON PAPERS, No. 3, by the Hon. Edward Everett (ready this morning) at FRENCH'S Book and Printing Depot. This is decidedly one of the best numbers of the New York Ledger ever issued.

The Tribune, New York, and Political Register for 1859, price 12c. This is one of most useful little books in the country.

Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun for February, 6c. The Comic Boquet for January, 10c.

The Chess Monthly for January, edited by Paul Morphy and Daniel W. Fiske, 25c.

A fine assortment of Diaries for 1859, various sizes, styles, and prices.

Harpers' Weekly, Leslie, Mercury, Line of Battle, Ship, Flag, Pictorial, London Illustrated News, Punch, Herald, Tribune, and all the new Papers, Magazines, Books, Reviews, &c.

FOR SALE.—A negro MAN, about forty years old, a first rate farm hand, and no better ploughman, wagoner, cartman, or hand with horses in the State—rather old for the Southern market, and will be sold a bargain, for each or negotiable paper, the owner having no further use for him. He is a servant of good character. Apply for any further information to ROBERT C. BRASHEAR, esq., or Capt. GEORGE H. PADGETT, West End, Alexandria, where the negro can be seen.

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to me will please come forward and settle their accounts with me, before the bills will be found ready to my order.

S. & W. MEYENBERG.

COOKS AND TWO WASHERWOMEN, wanted immediately. Apply to

MRS. M. V. MADDOX.

BY YESTERDAY EVENING'S MAILS.

DEATH OF A COLPORTEUR.—Mr. R. S. JONES, an amiable and pious young man, who has been in Petersburg for a month past as an agent for the Baptist Colportage in Virginia, died of consumption on Friday night last. The deceased had been acting, previous to his visit to this city, in the same capacity of Colporteur in Culpeper and in Richmond, where he was at all times kindly greeted, and made many warm friends, gaining the most confident confidence of his employers.—*Petersburg Express.*

MR. JAMES BROWN.—We regret to hear on Sunday night, that this old and well-known citizen was in danger of death. Some days ago Mr. Brown was badly wounded in the foot, by a locomotive, heaving it so severely that it seems mortification had set in and all hope had fled. Mr. Brown was a prominent citizen of Richmond, and for many years had been second State Auditor.—*Rich. Eng.*

FENCIBLE.—By a late decision of the Court of Appeals, as we understand, Messrs. Warwick & Barksdale have gained title to about two-thirds of 12th street from Cary, and North of Canal, and on Saturday last possession and fenced it in; so that there is now barely enough room for one vehicle to pass along 12th, from Cary to Canal.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

During the month of December last, nine vessels cleared at the port of Richmond for foreign ports. Of this number were brigges, two ships, one large and one small. The total tonnage of these vessels was 3,223; and the number of men employed in them nine-nine.

COMMERCIAL.

PRICES OF PRODUCE IN ALEXANDRIA.	
PRICES OF CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS, (YESTERDAY)	
FLOR, Superfine	55 00
Do, Extra	53 00
Do, Family	50 00
WHEAT, White	1 25 00
Do, Red	1 15 00
Do, Yellow	1 10 00
CORN, White	0 80 00
Do, Yellow	0 75 00
CORN MEAL, 7 bushels	0 75 00
OATS	0 40 00
RYE	0 65 00
CLAYED SEED, (retail)	0 25 00
FLAXED SEED, (retail)	0 25 00
SEED, 7 bushels	1 25 00
PLASTER, Lump, retail, delivered	4 25 00
Do, Ground do	3 00 00
GRASS	1 75 00
SALT, Fine	1 05 00
Do, Ground	0 80 00
BUTTER, Roll, 7 lb	0 18 00
Do, Fats	0 14 00
PORK, Hog Round	0 04 00
LARD, in Kegs	0 10 00
WHITE BEANS	1 25 00
BLACK EYE BEANS	1 00 00
HAY 700 lbs	0 00 00

FLOR.—The market for Flour opened dull, with light receipts and moderate transactions. We note small sales at \$5 for superfine. Extra and Family are in limited request, at above quotations.

WHEAT.—In Wheat there is little doing. The receipts by Railroad yesterday were very light, the holiday preventing the farmers from sending their crops to market. We note a sale of inferior red wheat at 11 1/2c; good to prime would bring 12c. There were no sales of white, and the quotations for that description are nominal.

CORN.—Corn is in very active request, but the receipts are light, and the millers and distillers are buying up all that comes to market. The lots are small, however, and our quotations are not accurate, though prices have considerably advanced.

RYE.—The receipts of Rye are small, while there is a good demand. We quote 68 1/2c, but in the absence of large transactions, these figures are nominal.

OATS.—Oats are in demand, and may be quoted at 42c. The receipts are very light.

PORK.—Dressed Hogs are coming to market in very small quantities. The demand continues fair, and we quote \$6 75 to \$7 00 per 100 lbs.

The Markets.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 3.—Flour is dull; Howard street and Ohio \$5 1/2c; without finding buyers. Wheat, the market is dull; white firm, at 12 1/2c; red, for good to prime, red 11 1/2c; white, for good to prime, red 11 1/2c; white, for good to prime, red 11 1/2c. Oats are buoyant; Pennsylvania 37 1/2c; Maryland 42 1/2c. Rye is quiet; Pennsylvania 56c. Provisions the market is firm. Sugar and Molasses are quiet, and prices are unchanged. Coffee is in good demand.

New York, Jan. 3.—Flour is firmer; State \$1 20; 4 1/2c; Ohio \$3 1/2c; Southern unchanged at \$1 20; 4 1/2c. Wheat is firm; red 11 1/2c; white 12 1/2c. Corn is quiet; white 77 1/2c; new white 75c. Rye is quiet; old mess \$1 1/2c; new \$1 1/2c. Lard quiet at 11 1/2c. Hides \$1 1/2c; active at 24 1/2c. Stocks are dull and heavy. Cumberland Coal Co. 20.

The Cincinnati Gazette of Friday, says:—"Operations in the Hog market were entirely suspended, owing to the unfavorable weather. The temperature being up to 60 degrees, porkers would, of course, do nothing in the way of cutting, and owing to the unfavorable condition of the trade, they do not care to buy in advance."

Holders, aware of all this, are not offering. Prices may, therefore, be called nominal, at \$6 25 for live hogs, averaging 200 lbs. apiece, would have brought the latter figure, delivered in good weather. The receipts comprised about 3,000 head."

No business was done in New York on Saturday, and the evening issue of all the papers was suspended. The Journal of Commerce of Friday evening says:—"Notwithstanding the severe storm, the old year went off with a smiling face, and a serene atmosphere, in the commercial world, in striking contrast with the gloomy frowns that attended the exhibit of its predecessor. Every one is buoyant with hope, and the new year seems full of promise."

The New York Commercial remarks upon the foreign dry goods market:

"Importers are waiting for further arrivals of foreign goods to complete the assortment for Spring. Judging from the manifests as to the amount of the importation for the present month, the aggregate will be about two-thirds of the importation for the corresponding month in 1858. It will be in excess of December, 1857, but the importations of last year do not, of course, furnish a measure for the wants of the country in ordinary seasons."

Inspection of Flour at Richmond for the second quarter ending 31st December, 1858:

2,015 barrels Superfine	
4,500 barrels Extra Superfine	
150,064 barrels Family	
9,011 barrels Superfine	
1,709 barrels Fine	
21,160 barrels Middlings	
1,113 barrels Condemned	

D. S. DOLAN, Inspector.

We notice an advance of 1 cent per acre in land warrants, with a fair demand. We quote:

40 acres	100 1/2c
80 acres	85 1/2c
120 acres	81 1/2c
160 acres	83 1/2c

FOR CONGRESS.—We are authorized to announce HENRY SHACKLETON, esq., as a candidate to represent the Seventh Congressional District, in the next Congress.

FOR CONGRESS.—We are authorized to announce DR. J. F. GRAYSON, a candidate to represent the District of Stafford, King George, and Prince William, in the Senate of Virginia, subject to the action of the District Convention.

PRINCE WILLIAM, Nov. 11—1858.

NOTICE.—Our accounts will be ready for delivery January 1st, and we solicit from our friends prompt settlements.

G. K. WITMER & BROS.

HOUSE SERVANTS FOR HIRE, for the evening. Apply to

J. K. MARSHALL.

A Reminiscence.

In an article in the Journal of Commerce, taken from a paper published in 1833, the writer, John Pintard, esq., says:—"Judge the natural propensity of one 'fallen into the mire and yellow lead' to conclude these remarks with an anecdote, for the authenticity of which he pledges his veracity."

General Washington, in the first year of his Presidency, under the new Constitution in 1789, resided in the Franklin House, the head of Cherry street. On New Year's Day, 1790, he was waiting upon by the principal gentlemen of the city; the day was unpropitious and unpleasant. After introduction mostly making the usual compliments of the season, the citizens mutually interchanged their kind greetings, and retired highly gratified by a friendly notice of the President, to most of whom he was personally a stranger. In the evening Mrs. Washington held her levee. It was about full moon, and the air so bland that the ladies attended in their light summer shades. Introduced by the aids and gentlemen in waiting, after taking their seats, tea, coffee, plain and plum, were served merrily. Familiar and friendly conversation ensued. The ladies, inquires, of the part of Mrs. Washington, after the families of the friends, with whom she had been acquainted during the Revolutionary war, and who always received marked attention from General Washington. Standing at the side of the President, near to Mrs. Washington, she remarked of all the incidents of the day none so pleased the General, as by which distinction she was named him, as the warm, friendly greetings of the gentlemen who had visited him at noon. On inquiring whether it was casual or customary, he was answered that it was an annual custom, transmitted by our early Dutch fathers, and always commemorated. After a pause, he observed, "That the highly favorable position of New York will, in a few years, gradually change the ancient manners and customs, but that whatever change may take place, it will be to the credit of the observance of New Year's day." A remark that made an indelible impression on the mind of the narrator, and which, at this distance of time, is recorded in the Mirror, to preserve it if possible from total oblivion. Amid the social chat of the company, the Hall clock struck nine. Mrs. Washington, an undersized and rather portly person, plain in her attire, rose with great dignity, looking complacently around the circle, observed, "General! always retires at nine, and I usually precede him." At this signal the ladies instantly adjusted their dresses and, after paying their respects retired.

Banks and Banking.

From official statistics it appears that the suppression of the United States bank in 1836 instantly raised the circulation of bank notes from \$10,000,000 to \$10,000,000. In 1840 the Subtreasury was established by law, and continued until 1841, without any sensible diminution in the amount of paper currency. It was repealed in that year, and the paper money in circulation fell to \$8,000,000. In 1847 the Subtreasury, or rather "the hard money treasury," was re-established, and the circulation of bank notes fell to \$6,000,000. And during the whole nine years of its continuance that species of circulation has increased to \$20,000,000; that is, it has much more than doubled. Such is the effect of Federal legislation against bank notes.

In 1820 the anti-bank mania began to spread. It continued to rage until, in 1826, the United States Bank expired, during which period the number of banks more than doubled, and the amount of capital nearly trebled. Within this period the Democratic panaceas were applied, namely, the removal of the deposits, the specie circular, and the pet bank system, which policy culminated in 1834, when the number of banks was 907, and their capital \$205,000,000. From 1840 to 1845 the country was partially relieved from the evils of financial empirics and churlisms. The banks decreased by three hundred in number, and their capital was reduced nearly one-half. During the next period of ten years the bank-holding policy had perfect sway. That policy has more than doubled the number of banks, and nearly doubled their capital.—*Not. Lit.*

Disasters on the Western Rivers.

The St. Louis Democrat contains a statement, carefully prepared by a gentleman conversant with the subject, of the principal disasters which have occurred on the Western rivers during the year 1858. The following is a recapitulation of the details given: Steamboats sunk, 47; Do, burnt, 19; Do, exploded, 9; Estimated number of lives lost by disasters, 259; Estimated value of property lost by the same